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## Olum rejects 'let's get small' attitude

By ANN PORTAL  
Of the Emerald

Financial exigency: for sinking Oregon colleges and universities, it represents the last port in the budget storm.

Portland State University rowed into the financial harbor three weeks ago; Western Oregon State College considered it.

At the University, Pres. Paul Olum directs his crew to patch the boat and stay afloat.

"You wave your magic wand, and you say those magic words — but what does it mean?" asks Olum.

For higher education, financial exigency means bankruptcy. It means not being able to pay all the bills, breaking personnel contracts and firing tenured faculty.

And Olum says it means losing face as an academic institution.

"It's a pretty strong action — a public announcement to the academic world that you've broken faith. I would like to resist doing that," he says.

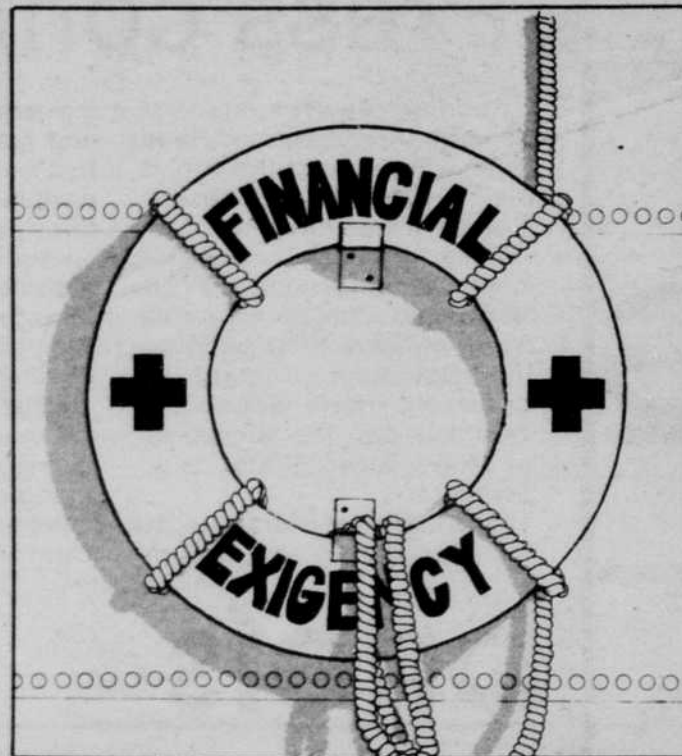
"It takes a long time to live that down."

Institutions must be able to prove exigency in order to declare it, he says. The amount of time it takes to regain credit and credibility will, in part, depend on whether the declaration was in good faith, Olum says.

In Oregon, exigency had been declared only once before September's PSU announcement, according to higher education Chancellor Roy Lieuallen. The earlier declaration also was at PSU, he says.

Although declaring exigency is the individual decision of the eight state colleges and universities, the chancellor and the State Board of Higher Education both must be consulted, Lieuallen says.

PSU Pres. Joseph Blumel says his decision to declare exigency was, in part, acknowledging what he considers an order from the Legislature to reduce the



Graphic by Max DeRungs

size of higher education.

WOSC Pres. Gerald Leinwand agrees with Blumel's interpretation of recent budget cuts, viewing them as more than a short-term problem to be handled this year.

"In Oregon, the dream of what higher education can mean to the state has been lost," Leinwand says.

"We're dealing with a legislative mandate to become smaller."

But Leinwand says he rejected exigency as the means for achieving smallness, although proving ex-

igency at WOSC next year "would not be a difficult thing to do."

"We've discussed (financial exigency) rather extensively with them," Lieuallen says.

However, after talking to deans, faculty and students, Leinwand decided on the "more orderly" system of program reduction proposed to the faculty last week.

Under state administrative rules, financial exigency and program reduction are the only ways tenured faculty can be fired — which probably will happen at both PSU and WOSC next year.

Firing tenured faculty will hinder WOSC's ability to attract faculty in the future, Leinwand says, but word of program reductions may not travel as far — or hurt as much — as financial exigency. Many colleges across the nation also are cutting back, he says.

Allowing time for comment on both planning and implementation seems to have prevented panic, Leinwand says.

"The faculty have reacted with remarkable restraint."

The University already has in place the 4-percent cut for the 1982-83 academic year that triggered the actions taken at the other two schools, Olum says.

But work continues on the \$2.15 million reduction as guidelines shift on what is included in the cut, he says.

For the time being, financial exigency remains an abstract idea at the University. Olum says he continues to reject the idea of getting rid of tenured faculty or eliminating academic programs.

Decreased tuition, decreased state revenue, or new cuts in the special legislative session could change the picture, he says, but right now the University is riding it out — and waiting for calmer waters.

"We've done everything in our power to hang on to what we've got."

## P.E. Dept. wants requirement cut

By DEBBIE HOWLETT  
Of the Emerald

Physical education requirements may be dropped if a cost-cutting proposal wins faculty approval.

Michael Ellis, who heads the physical education department, asked the University Assembly Wednesday to repeal the five-term requirement beginning fall term 1982.

"We need to unfetter ourselves from the constraints imposed by the University P.E. requirements," Ellis said.

The assembly tabled discussion until its next meeting, possibly on Oct. 28. University Pres. Paul Olum must recommend additional budget cuts to the State Board of Higher Education by Nov. 1.

If passed, Ellis' motion could alleviate some pressure for further budget cuts because the physical education department would not need funding for activities classes.

Legislation in the Oregon House of Representatives prohibited the activity classes from drawing general funds. To continue P.E. requirements, activities classes would have to be funded from cutbacks in other departments.

And after a year of already painful cuts, nobody is happy with that solution.

Accordingly, Celeste Ulrich, dean of health, physical education and recreation, says "with the Legislature dipping into curriculum patterns, we have a lack of funds. What we want to do is explore different concepts to handle the programs."

Ulrich proposes a program similar to that used by Continuing Education. Activity classes would be arranged in a variety of ways, from seminars to full terms, but students would have to pay separate fees to enroll in the classes.

Ellis says that the transition will be a "hassle," similar to changing horses in mid-stream.

"We will probably get wet," Ellis says.

In other assembly business, members questioned the University of Washington's declaration of financial exigency, asking whether it was "premature."

Olum replied, "In my own judgment, it was a bit premature. There might have been political purposes involved."

Olum then stressed that under no circumstances would the University declare financial exigency for political reasons.



Jack Ohman

Photo by Erich Boekelheide

## Cartoonist draws audience

Twenty-year-old Jack Ohman is a man living out his fantasies.

Wednesday, the popular syndicated political cartoonist donned his "Ted Kennedy glasses" and read a prepared text about his life to a capacity crowd of high school journalists in the EMU Ballroom.

"In high school, I was a veteran avoicer of math classes," Ohman told the enthusiastic crowd. "And I started hanging out in the newspaper office."

Now he is what Newsweek calls "Cartooning's newest star." Ohman's satirical drawings appear in more than 350 newspapers across

the country.

Ohman's break came just last spring, when his syndicate's premier cartoonist, Jeff MacNelly, gave up his job to concentrate on the "Shoe" comic strip. The syndicate chose Ohman to take MacNelly's place.

In college, Ohman worked as the staff cartoonist for the University of Minnesota Daily.

"In college I got a lot of incompletes, and I lost a lot of weight," he says about his beginning.

"I gained all the weight back, but I never made up the incompletes."